

The Biblical Covenants

Insights and Applications for the Christian

A Four-Part Series

Prepared for the JOY Class

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February-March, 2021

SESSION 1

Useful Insights on

The Covenants of the Bible

February 10, 2021



The Major Covenants



Adam

*The Seed
Promise*

Noah

Abraham

Moses

David

New!

The Seed Promise



Genesis 3:14–15

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life;

¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

The Noahic Covenant



Genesis 8:21-22

²¹ The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

²² "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease."

The Abrahamic Covenant



Genesis 12:1–3

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you;

² And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;

³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

The Abrahamic Covenant



Genesis 21:12

¹² But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for **through Isaac your descendants shall be named.**”

Genesis 22:18

“**In your seed** all the nations of the earth shall be **blessed**, because you have obeyed My voice.”

The Abrahamic Covenant



Genesis 13:14–17

¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;

¹⁵ for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.

¹⁶ “I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.

¹⁷ “Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.”

The Mosaic Covenant



Exodus 19:3–8 (continued)

³ Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel:

⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself.

The Mosaic Covenant



Exodus 19:3–8 (continued)

⁵ ‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;

⁶ and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

The Mosaic Covenant



Exodus 19:3–8 (continued)

⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him.

⁸ All the people answered together and said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do!” And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

The Mosaic Covenant

Given
Exodus 19-20

More Details
Leviticus 23

Renewed
Deuteronomy
28

Renewed
Joshua 24

The Davidic Covenant



2 Chronicles 13:5

[King Abijah speaking to King Jeroboam I]:

“Do you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the rule over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt?”

The Davidic Covenant



2 Samuel 7:12–16

¹² “When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹³ “He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

The Davidic Covenant



2 Samuel 7:12–16 (continued)

¹⁴ “I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,

¹⁵ but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

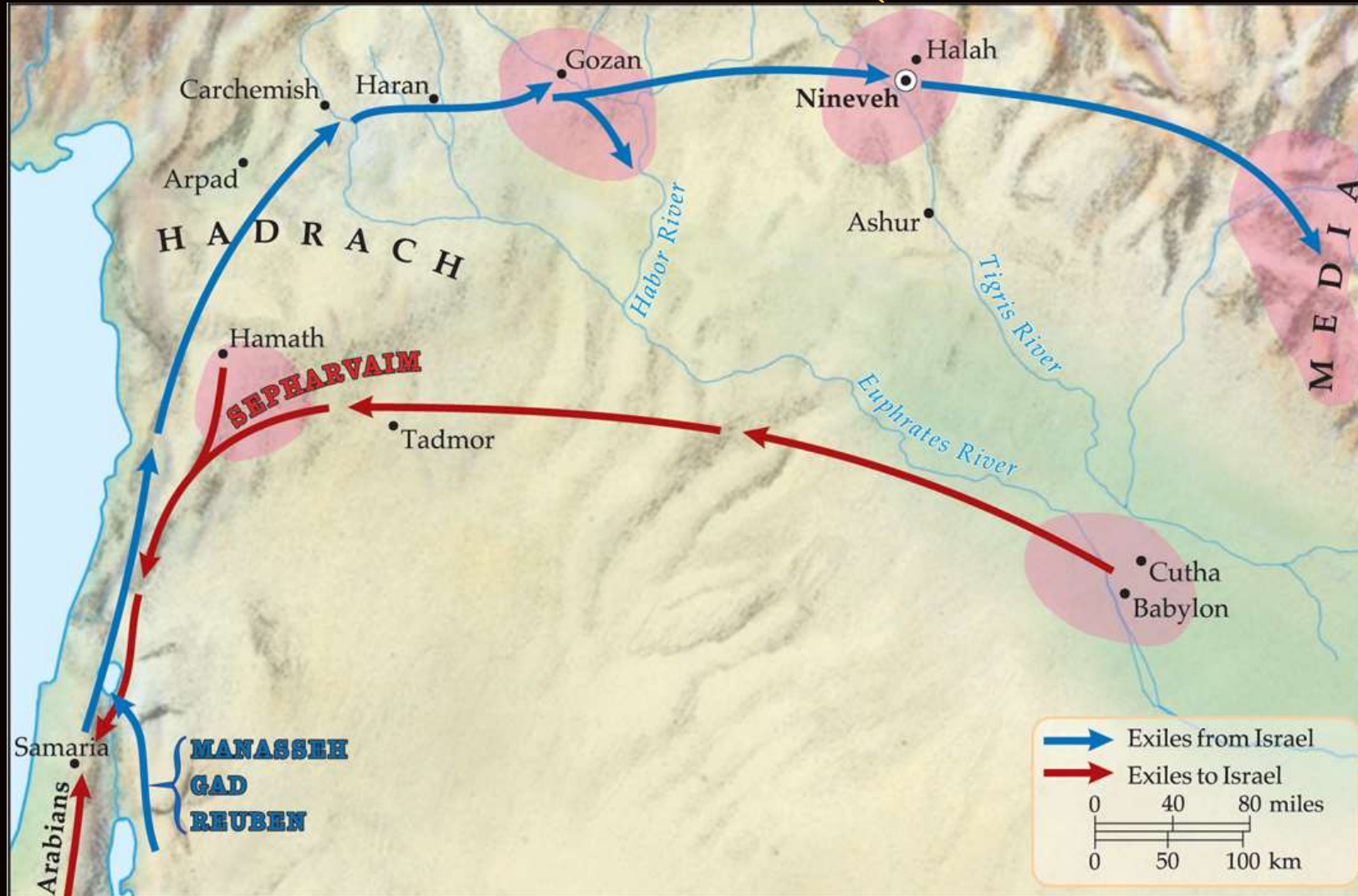
¹⁶ “Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.” ’ ”

Breaking the Mosaic Covenant

- Idolatry
- Exploiting the poor
- Neglect of widows & orphans
- Corrupt Priests and Kings
- Immorality



Israel into Exile (734-712 BC)



The exile of peoples to and from Israel under the Assyrians, 734-712 BCE

Fall of Jerusalem (586 BC)

- Upper classes taken to cities across the Babylonian Empire



THE PROPHETS BY THEIR PLACE OF BIRTH:



THE PROPHETS BY THEIR PLACE IN TIME:

I. The Pre-Exile Prophets

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Joel | c. 850-700 B.C. |
| Jonah | c. 800 B.C. |
| Amos | c. 780-755 B.C. |
| Hosea | c. 760-710 B.C. |
| Micah | c. 740 B.C. |
| Isaiah | c. 740-680 B.C. |
| Nahum | c. 666-615 B.C. |
| Zephaniah | c. 630-620 B.C. |
| Habakkuk | c. 627-586 B.C. |
| Jeremiah | c. 626-580 B.C. |

II. The Exile Prophets

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| Daniel | c. 604-535 B.C. |
| Ezekiel | c. 593-570 B.C. |
| Obadiah | c. 585 B.C. |

III. The Post-Exile Prophets

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Haggai | c. 520 B.C. |
| Zechariah | c. 520-518 B.C. |
| Malachi | c. 450-400 B.C. |

THE PROPHETS BY THEIR PLACE OF MINISTRY:

I. To Israel

Hosea
Amos
Jonah (also to The Nations)

II. To Judah

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Joel
Micah (also to Israel)
Habakkuk (also to The Nations)
Zephaniah
Ezekiel
Daniel
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

III. To The Nations

Nahum (also to Judah)
Obadiah

Something Big is Coming...

- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Isaiah 42:6
- Deuteronomy 1:1-9
- Matthew 26:28
- Luke 22:20
- Hebrews 8:7-12
- Hebrews 13:20-21

The New Covenant Foretold

NASB

Jeremiah 31:31–34

³¹ “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,

³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.



The New Covenant Foretold

NASB

Jeremiah 31:31–34 (continued)

³³ “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.



The New Covenant Foretold

NASB

Jeremiah 31:31–34 (continued)

³⁴ “They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”



The New Covenant Arrives

NASB

Matthew 26:26–28

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”



The New Covenant Arrives

NASB

Matthew 26:26–28

²⁷ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is **My blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.



Luke's Version

NASB

Luke 22:20 (NASB95)

²⁰ And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the **new covenant** in My blood.



God is a Covenant- Making God

So what can we learn about
covenants?



Types of Ancient Covenants

| Type | Pledge(s) | Ritual |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Kinship (Parity) | Equal parties swear mutual oath | Typically includes a family meal |
| Grant | Only superior party swears the oath | Sacrifice??? |
| Suzerain-Vassal | Superior party imposes oath on the subordinate | Self-malediction |

Kinship Covenants

1

- Genesis 26:26-35
 - Isaac makes peace with Abimelech concerning water rights
 - They share a feast together
 - They make oaths to each other
 - They depart in peace

Kinship Covenants

2

- Genesis 31:43-55
 - Jacob meets Laban at Mizpah
 - Erects a stone pillar and a heap of stones as a witness between them
 - Jacob will not mistreat Rachel or Leah or take other wives
 - Laban will not lay claim to Jacob's herds
 - Exchanged oaths
 - Shared a meal
 - Departed in peace

Grant Covenants

1

- God's sworn covenant oath with Abraham at the "Sacrifice" at Mt. Moriah.

Genesis 22:18 (NASB95)

¹⁸ "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Grant Covenants

1

- God's oaths with David and Solomon

- No Meals
- No Sacrifices
- No Ceremony
- No Future Stipulations for the Grant Recipient

2 Samuel 7:16 (NASB95)

¹⁶ "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever." ' "

Suzerain-Vassal Treaties

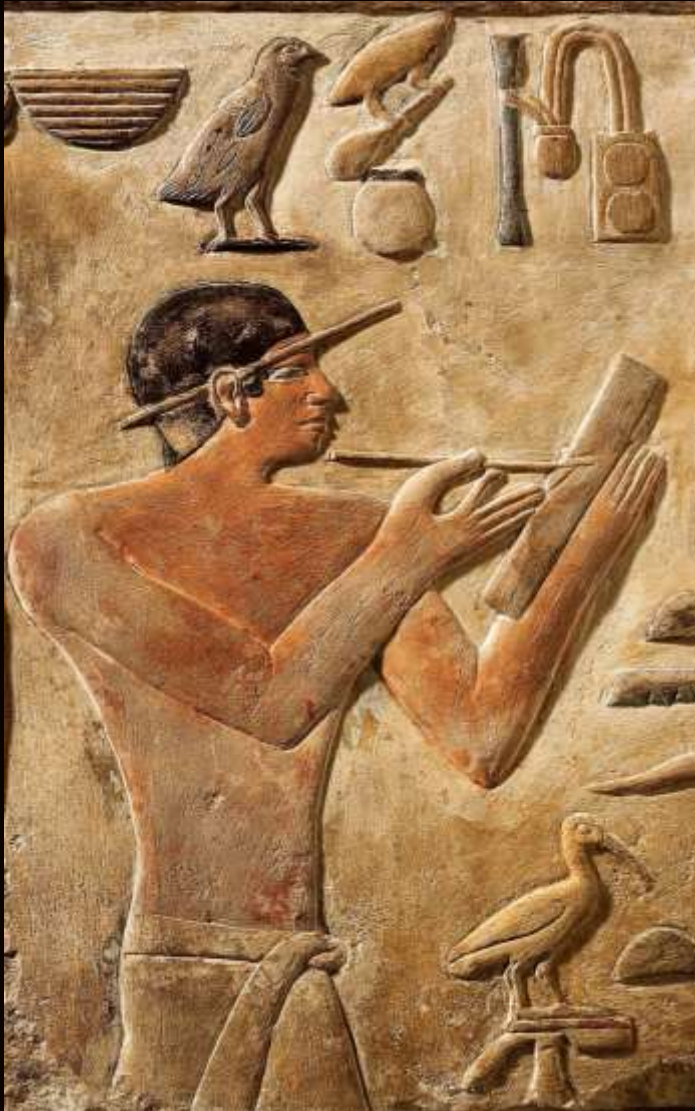
- This form is common in the Ancient Near East in the Second Millennium BC.
- Suzerain = Greater King, Overlord
- Vassal = Lesser King



Elements of Ancient S-V Treaties

1. Preamble
2. Historical Prologue
3. The Stipulations
4. Provision for deposit in the temple and period public reading
5. The list of gods as witnesses
6. The curses and blessings formula
7. The formal oath
8. Solemn Ceremony
9. Procedure against rebellious vassal

Moses as Egyptian Prince



- **Acts 7:22 (NASB95):** “Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and he was a man of power in words and deeds.”
- Moses grew up as a prince
 - Royal education
 - International Visitors
 - Statecraft and Diplomacy

Suzerain-Vassal Covenants

- Genesis 17 – Covenant of Circumcision
- Exodus 19-20
- Deuteronomy 27:11-26
- Joshua 8:30-35

The Story of Salvation: Covenants

God's Unfolding Plan for His People



| Mediator or Recipient | Adam | Noah | Abraham | Moses | David | Jesus |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------------|--------|---------------------------|
| Form | A Promise | Grant | Grant | Suzerain-Vassal | Grant | Echoes of Suzerain-Vassal |
| Sign | | Rainbow | Circumcision | Passover | Throne | Baptism, Lord's Supper |

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